

# European Border Cities as Cross-border Cooperation Engines

*Constantin-Vasile TOCA*

*A general research on the works related to the European border cities reveals the fact that scholars do not so frequently approach this matter. One of these very rare sources, that of Decoville, Durand and Feltgen considers the border cities from a new and very interesting perspective for the former communist countries: that of de-marginalisation of the border urban areas, of an upgrading of the status of peripheral regions, and, in the end, of the dynamisation of their economic and cultural life by their very easy to establish external relations in the framework of the process of cross-border cooperation. In the context of the greater consideration allotted to the problem of borders and cross-border cooperation in the EU, consecrating an entire issue of Eurolimes to the role of the border cities could be considered as an act of reparation to these urban areas, to their ethnic diversity, multicultural sophistication, political role in key situations, or economical potential for their communities and even region or country. Very often cities situated on the borders have to report their decisions and activities not only to the needs of their citizens, but to the realities of their out-border vicinities or even to the laws of the neighbour countries. In different historical times, to be placed on a border could represent either an opportunity or a risk, and Europe and European cities, during their histories, also faced with the two possibilities. Although differences of the two sides of the borders are inherent and will persist, probably, for long periods of time in the future, after the world wars Europe has experienced many changes when it comes to its border structure, and very often divergent interests have created development regions that are rather homogenous.*

## Nicosia: A Divided Capital in Europe

*Petros PAPAPOLYVIU and Giorgos KENTAS*

**Abstract.** *Nicosia is a city designed to be divided across many false lines. The rich history of the city reveals the remnants of foreign intervention that imprinted a multi-cultural background on Nicosia, which – at the same time – erected some artificial lines of segregation. Britain's colonial rule was crucial in fostering the most contemporary lines of division. A given constitution in 1960 made these lines look inevitable, and by 1964 Nicosia (like many other towns in Cyprus) was already divided on the ground. Turkey's military invasion in 1974 imposed an even deeper line of division across Nicosia (and Cyprus) that engendered some novel problems which are visible up until today. EU accession stimulated some hope for overcoming division, which is relatively elusive.*

**Key words:** *Nicosia, false lines, British colonial heritage, divided capital, Turkish invasion, EU hope*

# **Borderland Identities of Bratislava: Balancing between Slovaks, Germans and Hungarians in the Second Half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

*Ana-Teodora KURKINA*

**Abstract:** *The article regards the urban space of Bratislava as an area contested by several national groups with their competing state-building strategies in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the city's status of a cultural and social crossroad started to be challenged by its' inhabitants and their respective political agendas. While offering a category of a "mental borderland" rather than a geographical one, the paper investigates the ways in which the three major groups living in the city attempted to claim it, presenting it as a centre of their culture, while reinterpreting its landscape and history. Although the case of Bratislava-Pressburg -Pozsony fits into the context of entangled histories, connecting the social and cultural networks of the region, the approach used in the current article is more comparative, since it regards the Slovaks, Germans and Hungarians as opposing parties, whose status of a "privileged" group was changing radically during the decades. The idea of resistance is highlighted as a driving mechanism of one's group's successful claim. Moreover, borders are seen as categories that are socially produced within the multinational and multicultural environment of Bratislava. The article states that the city's diverse character and multiple legacies were successfully claimed by groups most accustomed to "resisting" its "privileged" and "better standing" opponents. Therefore, the previously widely underestimated Slovak population finally turned Bratislava into its capital in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

**Key words:** *borderland identity, state-building, Bratislava's cityscape, Magyarisation, assimilation policies in the Austro-Hungarian Empire*

## **On the Future Role of Kaliningrad Oblast of Russia as an "International Development Corridor"**

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*Lidia Gennadjevna OSMOLOVSKAYA*

**Abstract:** *Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation has a unique position in the Baltic Sea Region due to its physiographic situation and, thereby, it plays an active role in geopolitical and economic processes that occur in the Baltic Sea Region. This, first of all, happens owing to its exclave position that causes to a great extent a necessity for close cross-border integration for the developing economy of the Oblast. The article considers new spatial forms of international economic integration (NSFIEI) contributing to the development of border regions; distinguishing of the border regions as international "development corridors" has been substantiated within the general region classification; the place of Kaliningrad Oblast regarding the level of economic*

*development and maturity of external relations among the border regions of Russia has been shown; its role as an "international development corridor" of Russia and EU has also been viewed. The comparative method and the technique of economic geography classification have been applied.*

**Key words:** *border regions, international development corridor, Kaliningrad Oblast of Russia*

## **Re-Inventing the Centre-periphery Relation by the European Capitals of Culture. Case-studies: Marseille-Provence 2013 and Pecs 2010**

**Corina TURŞIE**

**Abstract:** *The European Capital of Culture (ECoC) Program was initiated in mid 80's, as a modality to promote the richness and diversity of European cultures. It soon became evident that the Program's impact went beyond the cultural and political aspects and that the designation was a marketing opportunity for cities to improve image on a national and European scale, a regeneration tool in itself. ECoC is today about cities re-inventing their identities, re-narrating their history in a European context. The peripheral position, the unwanted heritage of the cities' past, soon became elements to be exploited and re-invented. The study is focused on two border cities that won the ECoC title and their ability to use the title as a regenerative tool, in order to foster their European identity, to favourably reorient their geography and to reposition themselves on Europe's map: Marseille-Provence 2013 (a Western Europe big city/region with an ex-colonial past and a peripheral position complex) and Pecs 2010 (a small Eastern peripheral city with a communist past). Applying qualitative content analysis on three types of documents: Application (Bid) books, official web pages and ex-post European Commission's evaluations, the article intends to identify the narratives used by these border cities to comply with the European dimension of the ECoC project.*

**Key words:** *European Capital of Culture, centre-periphery, urban regeneration, local narratives, European dimension.*

# Searching for Development of Medium-sized Cities in the European Union: A Study Case on Oradea

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**Abstract.** *Smaller cities from Central and Eastern Europe face the difficult task of creating a niche segment for their economies in the hopes of becoming sustainable and profitable despite their restrictions. Borders can provide an answer to some situations where the neighbouring region presents similar characteristics and development goals and as such can benefit from cross-border cooperation to grow faster. In our study case of Oradea we try to identify what attributes define a medium-sized city in Eastern Europe and what are the opportunities that provide economic benefits while creating a unique identity and an environment for growth. We explore history, demographics, development strategies, institutional and conceptual limitations and cross-border cooperation frameworks that help to define Oradea as a border city.*

**Keywords:** *local identity, multicultural space, strategic development, cross-border cooperation*

## The Historical Borders and the Cross-Border Connections' Effect on Debrecen's Spirituality and Cultural Economy

*István SÜLI-ZAKAR  
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**Abstract:** *In the current paper we wanted to investigate the historical process which resulted in Debrecen's contemporary (cultural) traditions and formed the city's self-image. In the course of the research which was after the city's historic past we investigated the role of the changing borders and the possibilities of the cross-border Euroregional cooperation as well. The nearby border has effect on the city's economic and tourist life. In the last years (during the urban regeneration), many projects were realised, which beside the reconstruction of the cityscape, promoted the increase of the city's attractive force as well. Debrecen's cultural economy rests partly on those infrastructure developments, which were carried out during the last one and a half decade. Both the citizens and the tourists can choose from different (cultural) programmes that are offered by the city. Although Debrecen is one of the biggest region centres of Hungary and it has a huge gravitation zone, the cross-border cooperation can strengthen the city's leading position. Debrecen has close and good connection with Oradea. This connection rests on the two cities' common historic past and their common interest. The analysis based mainly on own researches and the knowledge of the city's spiritual and cultural life.*

**Keywords:** *periphery, urban regeneration, tourism, cultural economy, cross-border connection, Euroregion, Eurometropolis*

# **Sarajevo – A Border City Caught between Its Multicultural Past, the Bosnian War and a European Future**

*Miruna TRONCOTĂ*

**Abstract.** *The analysis is devoted to the city of Sarajevo and its turbulent history as being an illustrative case for how political borders have been symbolically reconstructed on ethnic lines in the Balkans for the last five centuries. Key historical periods such as the Austro-Hungarian period, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and next the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Olympic Games, the war and the Dayton Peace Agreement including its aftermath shall be discussed in turn. Some of the most significant events that have shaped the history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century have directly marked the city of Sarajevo and they tackle some of the most intricate issues that dominate European history as a whole such as national belonging, political ideologies, and religious beliefs. Several milestones can be traced in this regard: the beginning of the first World War, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the second World War, Tito's political vision and the prosperous era of socialist Yugoslavia, the dissolution of Yugoslavia and violent ethnic war, the period of peace building and post-conflict reconstruction which is still ongoing. The aim of the study is to analyse the events and patterns which might have contributed to changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina's capital city. The main argument that the analysis tries to put forward is that the post-conflict Sarajevo's governance structure has maintained and institutionalised the ethnic divisions and political differences in the country and city's reality.*

**Key words:** *Bosnia and Herzegovina, border city, identity, multi-ethnicity, Sarajevo*

## **Chernivtsi: A City with Mysterious Flavour of Tolerance**

*Anatolij KRUGLASHOV*

**Abstract.** *The article presents the analytical outline of Chernivtsi, the city with a reach cultural history. The past of the city is traced back as far as the written sources began to mention the settlement in the sources of Moldavian Principality. Austrian, Romanian, Soviet and Ukrainian periods of city evolutions are considered and compared. The main focus has been made on the interethnic communication of key local ethnic groups, their relations and coexistence. The contribution of urban population into formation of prominent Bukovynian tolerance also has been regarded by the author. Current challenges of the local community development are summed up and prospect for its further evolution suggested in Conclusions. It's stressed the importance influence of the borderland position of the city on the whole history and present time of it.*

**Key words:** *Chernivtsi, ethnic communities, tolerance, cross-cultural dialogue, border city*

# The Borderland City of Turkey: Izmir from Past to the Present

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**Abstract.** *Izmir is a large metropolis in Turkey at the side of a gulf on the Aegean Sea in the westernmost part of Anatolian Peninsula. As the third most populous city of the country after Istanbul and Ankara, Izmir has a population over 4 million on an area of 12,012 km<sup>2</sup> extending along the Gulf of Izmir to the inland across Gediz River's delta in the north, alongside a plain in the east and a somewhat craggy area in the south. It is the second leading port after Istanbul with its large and sheltered harbour. The ancient city which was known and also mentioned in English as Smyrna has officially taken the name of Izmir in 1930. Being described as "princess" by the 19th century French poet Victor Hugo, the city have witnessed 8,500 years of human history including 3,500 years of urban history as one of the oldest port cities of the Mediterranean. Izmir had long served as a point of interaction between the East and West and constituted a borderland between civilisations, between ethnicities, and between religions in its process of evolution from Smyrna to Izmir. The current urban identity of Izmir and its population has been deeply influenced by its historical heritage and multicultural past. Although the city has experienced vital changes in the course of time it still bears the borderland city flavour as a contribution of this heritage.*

**Keywords:** *Izmir, Smyrna, Turkey, borderland city, international port, historical and cultural heritage*

## Tiraspol – the Border City of Eastern Latinity

*Vasile CUCERESCU  
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**Abstract:** *The paper focuses on the Moldovan border city – Tiraspol, belonging to the Eastern extremity of Latinity; de facto, being situated in the secessionist region of Transnistria. Tiraspol has developed next to the ruins of the ancient Greek city Tyras, founded about 600 B.C. by people from Miletus. Tiraspol is analysed as a border city of Eastern Latinity, following its legal status, name, geographical position, history, people, demographics, ethnic structure, international relations, cross-border relations, EUBAM mission. The city is presented through the prism of the Transnistrian conflict, an artificial and frozen conflict, which affects the natural socio-economic development of Moldova and afflicts the security of Europe in this region of the continent. From the geographical, historical and cultural points of view, the Europeanity of Tiraspol can play a crucial role in developing an appropriate matrix at the border of Eastern Latinity.*

**Keywords:** *border city, Europe, international / cross-border relations, Latinity, status, Tiraspol*

# **Border / Frontier Cities: Between Communication and Fragmentation**

*Ioan HORGA*  
*Ana Maria COSTEA*

**Abstract.** *The globalisation phenomenon led to the relaxation of borders all over the world. But, at the same time it generated the appearance of invisible frontiers which may create deeper fragmentations inside the society. Apart from the national states, the cities are also markers of identity and places where the ethnic, religious, social, economic differences are more sensible. The present article tackles the issue of frontier / border cities in order to highlight the differences between them and to analyse how the border / frontier affect their development.*

**Key words:** *city, border, frontier, the EU, globalisation*

# **The Challenges and Prospects for Development of the Carpathian Region**

*Julia TSYBULSKA  
Olga DEMEDYUK*

**Review of:** *Karpatskyi Rehion: Aktualni Problemy ta Perspektyvy Rozvytku* [The Carpathian Region: Problems and Prospects of Development], monograph in 8 volumes, edited by Vasil S. Kravtsiv. Lviv: NAS of Ukraine. Institute of Regional Research, 2013.

## **The Road towards the New Europe. The Facets and the Developments of an On-going Process.**

*Alina-Carmen BRIHAN*

**Review of:** Bărbulescu, Iordan Gheorghe. *Noua Europă. Identitate și model european* [The New Europe. Identity and European Model]. Iași: Polirom, 2015. ISBN 978-973-46-5127-6.

## **European Integration: Achievements and Perspectives**

*Dan APĂTEANU*

**Review of:** *European Integration between History and New Challenges*, edited by Ariane Landuyt. Bologna: Il Mulino, 2014, 596p. ISBN 978-88-15-14715-8.

## **Historical Moments in the History of Europe**

*Anca OLTEAN*

**Review of:** Sorin Șipoș, Gabriel Moisa, Dan Octavian Cepraga, Mircea Brie, Teodor Mateoc, *From Periphery to Centre. The Image of Europe at the Eastern Border of Europe* (Cluj-Napoca: Romanian Academy / Center for Transylvanian Studies, 2014). ISBN 978-973-7784-97-1).